

base sequence (II) (SEQ ID No. 2): 5'-ACCGUUGGUUUCGUAGUGUAGUGG
UUUAUCAGUUCGCCUAACACGGGAAAGGUCCCGGUUCGAAACGGGCACUACAAACCAACA
CACAAACACUGAUGAGGACCGAAAGGUCCGAAACGGGCACGUCCGAAACGGUUUUU-3'.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 8 as follows:

1. (Amended) A ribozyme comprising a nucleotide sequence having the following base sequence (I) or (II):

base sequence (I) (SEQ ID No. 1): 5'-ACCGUUGGUUUCGUAGUGUAGUGGUUA
UCACGJUCGCCUAACACGCGAAAGGUCCCGGJUCGAAACGGGCACUACAAACACAACUGA
UGAGGACCGAAAGGUCCGAAACGGGCACGUCGGAAACGGUUUUU-3'

base sequence (II) (SEQ ID No. 2): 5'-ACCGUUGGUUUCGUAGUGUAGUGGUU
AUCACGUUCGCUAACACGCGAAAGGUCCCCGGUUCGAAACCGGGCACUACAAACCAACACACA
ACACUGAUGAGGACCGAAAGGUCCGAAACGGGCACGUCGGAACGGUUUUU-3'.

8. (Amended) An RNA variant adopting the following secondary structure (I), wherein said RNA variant comprises a bulge structure introduced in the region in which hydrogen bonds form between nucleotides 8 to 14 and nucleotides 73 to 79.

5'-a a g u c g c u u u u -3'
 c c
 c a
 g g
 u a
 u a
 g A
 G - C
 U - A
 U - A
 U - A
 C - G
 C - G
 (SEQ ID No. 4)

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